

difficulties. The children born to unmarried teenagers will struggle to fulfill the promise given to all human life, and many of them simply will not succeed. Many of them will remain trapped in a cycle of poverty, and unfortunately may become part of our criminal justice system.

How bad is the problem? In 1960, 15 percent of teen births were out-of-wedlock. In 1970, 30 percent of teen births were out-of-wedlock. In 1980, 48 percent of teen births were out-of-wedlock. In 1990, 68 percent of teen births were out-of-wedlock. In 1993, 72 percent of all teen births were out-of-wedlock.

Why do we care about this? For the simple reason that beyond the statistics, this trend has devastating consequences for the young women who become unwed teen parents, and for the children born to them.

The report, "Kids Having Kids," by the Robin Hood Foundation quantified some of these consequences. Compared to those who delay childbearing until they are 20 or 21, adolescent mothers: spend 57 percent more time as single parents in their first 13 years; are 50 percent more likely to depend on welfare; are 50 percent less likely to complete high school; and are 24 percent more likely to have more children.

Children of adolescents (compared to children of 20- and 21-year-olds) are more likely to be born prematurely and 50 percent more likely to be low-birth weight babies of less than five and a half pounds—meaning an increased likelihood of infant death, mental retardation or illness, dyslexia, hyperactivity, among others.

How can we make a difference? By working in partnership with communities. At the national level, we need to take a clear stand against teenage pregnancy and foster a national discussion—involving national leaders, respected organizations, the media, and states about how religion, culture, and public values influence both teen pregnancy and responses to it. The Congressional Advisory Committee to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, which I co-chair with Congresswoman LOWEY, will play an active role in this discussion.

At the local level, communities need to develop programs targeted to the characteristics, needs, and values of its families. Communities know what their needs are and what will be most effective with their teenagers, so it is critical that they design and implement the programs, not the federal government. This legislation will assist efforts of communities, and I hope that my colleagues will join me as a cosponsor.

Our goal to reduce teen pregnancy is challenging and difficult. But if we work together we CAN make a difference.

EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union has under

consideration the bill (H.R. 1184) to authorize appropriations for carrying out the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 1184, the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act of 1999.

H.R. 1184 will take earthquake research and earthquake engineering research to the next level enabling the replacement of antiquated earthquake warning systems and equipment while linking monitoring centers and laboratories together and stimulating scientific research that will help prevent losses of life and property due to earthquakes.

I am pleased that H.R. 1184 will establish two new projects that will greatly boost our earthquake research and monitoring efforts: the Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES); and the Advanced National Seismic Research and Monitoring System. These programs will join earthquake engineering research facilities and monitoring systems from across the country while upgrading and expanding earthquake testing at the facilities. The programs will help to eliminate duplication of research and promote coordination, cooperation and sharing of information to better enable us to utilize science in the protection of life and property.

I am also pleased that the Committee accepted an amendment offered by Congresswoman WOOLSEY to direct FEMA to report on the components of the "National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Programs that address the needs of at-risk populations: the elderly, the disabled, the non-English speaking, and single parent households." These populations face additional challenges following natural disasters and we must not neglect the most vulnerable of our populations during such disasters. I applaud Congresswoman WOOLSEY in her effort to address this problem.

I also appreciate the committee language expressing that the committee will soon begin examining why insurance companies refuse to reduce insurance premiums to builders, home owners, and commercial properties, that have complied with the new engineering standards and practices shown to reduce damages caused by earthquakes. Those who make conscious efforts to incorporate higher standards to prevent earthquake damages should not have to pay the same rates as those who do not incorporate these standards.

I support this legislation because we need to be prepared for earthquakes; we need to improve our abilities to predict earthquakes; and we need to implement policies and building practices that would minimize losses of life due to earthquakes. But, in addition to this, we must prepare for the rebuilding and relief efforts that would be necessary in response to disastrous earthquakes and other natural phenomena including, tsunamis, hurricanes, and volcanic eruptions. We must accelerate community efforts to prepare for such incidents by encouraging the development of response plans and promoting construction practices that minimize losses from disasters.

Accordingly, I have introduced legislation to provide our nation better protection from financial catastrophe caused by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis. My bill, H.R.

481, the "Earthquake, Volcanic Eruption and Hurricane Hazards Insurance Act of 1999," would establish a Federal residential insurance program, much like the national flood insurance program, to cover damage by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and hurricanes so that home-owners have access to affordable insurance that can help protect them against total financial ruin because of a natural disaster. It would require States that wish to participate in the program to implement mitigation measures to help guard against extensive damage which might be preventable.

Although I hope we may never need to utilize such a program, it is only a matter of time until we are faced with another disaster and it is irresponsible not to prepare for the worst.

I support H.R. 1184, the "Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act of 1999," and I urge immediate consideration of H.R. 481, the "Earthquake, Volcanic Eruption and Hurricane Hazards Insurance Act of 1999."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1569, H. CON. RES. 82, H. J. RES. 44, AND S. CON. RES. 21, MEASURES REGARDING U.S. MILITARY ACTION AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we are here today in this impressive and ornate building, full of pride in our suits and dresses; safe in the knowledge that we are protected by metal detectors and police officers and sergeants at arms. No one but us can enter this room. We are pretty secure. But what are we doing here? What message are we sending to our men and women in the armed forces? They aren't as safe as we are. They are in harm's way in Europe working to make life safe for innocent people over there. I am apologetic and ashamed of the message we are sending to them. We should not be showing our troops, our enemies, or the world that we are divided during this crucial time. I believe that we are doing this for political reasons and at the expense of our brave men and women in uniform. I don't think they are very proud of us right now.

I am proud of them and I admire them. My prayers are with them. God bless them.

CHINESE-AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION TO TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Chinese-American community and pay tribute to its ancestors' contribution to the building of the American transcontinental railroad.